

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace Claim 1 with amended Claim 1 below:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising the steps:
- (a) - producing a plurality of amplicates of a section of the nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a first binding sequence (A) of one strand of the nucleic acid and the other can bind to a second binding sequence (C') which is essentially complementary to a sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A, in the presence of a probe with a binding sequence D which can bind to the third sequence (B) located between the sequences A and C or to the complement (B') thereof, wherein this probe contains a reporter group and a quencher group, using a polymerase having 5' nuclease activity, and
- (b) - detecting the nucleic acid by measuring a signal which is caused by the release of the reporter group, wherein the amplicates have a length of less than 75 nucleotides.
- Sub B1*